

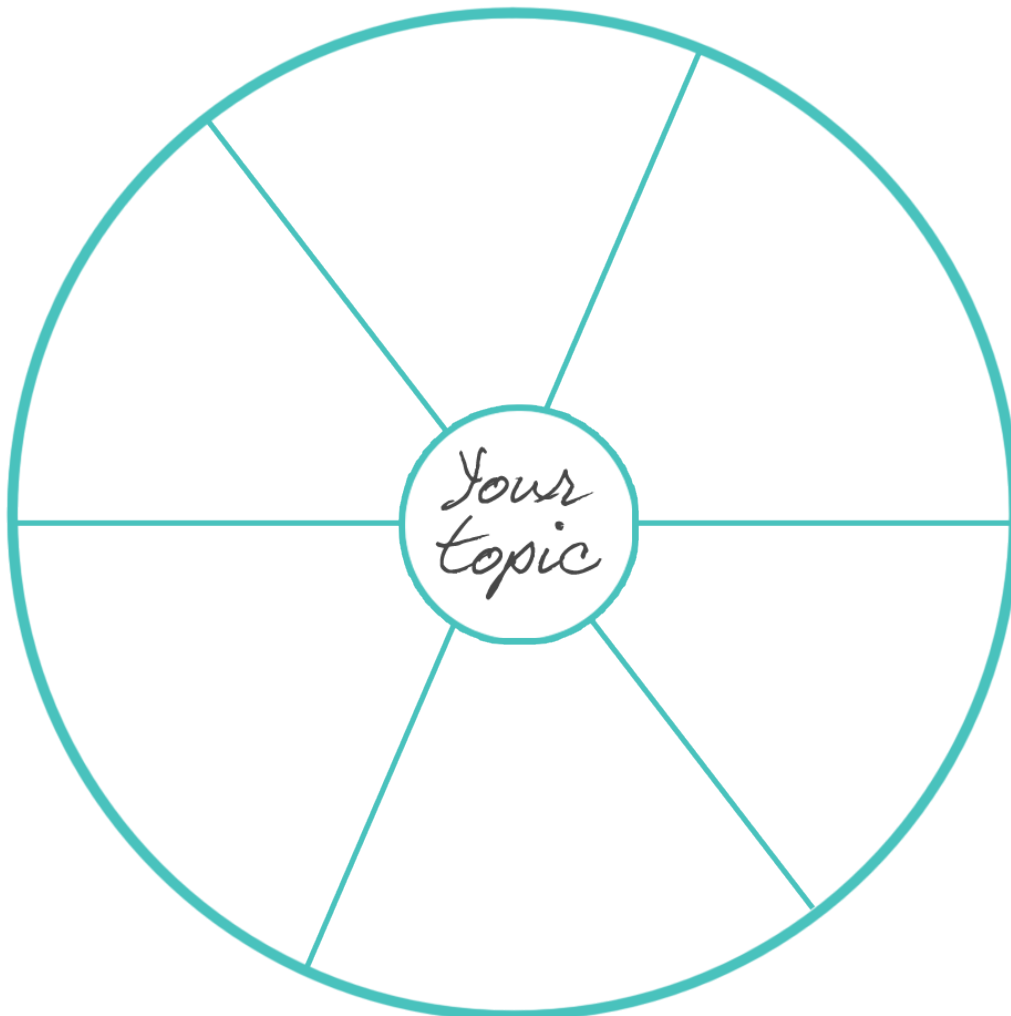
Topic Generation Visual Organizer

It's time for you to mine for the elements that will communicate your core messages and bring your college essay to life. You're going for both breadth and depth here. Can't find your power drill? You can borrow ours.

DRILL AROUND



Use this chart to map the ideas around your topic. Jot down questions and notes, and then take at least 5 minutes to freewrite on each of them on your computer or a piece of paper. What possible anecdotes might be included in your explorations of your topic? What led you to the moment or belief or quality you're attempting to explore? What has come since? Who else is involved in your story and what are they like? What final lessons might you learn or conclusions might you draw from the quality you are trying to convey or the experience you're describing? Try to cover as many different aspects and angles of your story as possible. Take the wide view.



DRILL DOWN

Circle or highlight your favorite ideas from the drill around and go deep into your descriptions! Allow one idea to branch out to its most miniscule details. What do things sound/smell/taste/look like? When did the story you're telling happen? Where were you? What role does the location play in your story? What did other people in your tale say? Can you pinpoint any dialogue? What were people wearing? How did you feel? What does reflecting on all of these things make you feel now? No element of your story is too minute to explore in detail. You can use this idea map to jumpstart the process. Now: dig dig dig!

